

Remarks

The Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration of the claims in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-83 were pending in this application, and Claims 1-21 have been withdrawn. Within the Office Action, Claims 22-25, 28, 30-34, 38, 43, 44, 47, 51, 52, 59 and 78-83 have been rejected, and Claims 26, 27, 29, 35-37, 39-42, 45, 46, 48-50, 53-58, and 60-77 have been objected to. By the above amendments, Claims 22, 25, 27, 28, 30-34, 36-76 and 81-83 have been amended, and Claims 24 and 29 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-23, 25-28 and 30-83 are currently pending in this application.

Claim Objections

Within the Office Action, Claims 22, 82 and 83 have been objected to for informalities. Specifically, within the Office Action it is stated, “[r]egarding claims 22 and 83, the limitation ‘said clock device outputting and synchronizing clock signal to said associative device and said controller’ should be changed to ‘said clock device outputting said synchronizing clock signal to said associative device and said controller.’” [Office Action, page 2] By the above amendments, Claims 22 and 83 have been amended accordingly. Also, within the Office Action, it is stated, “[r]egarding claim 82, the limitation ‘a memory device’ at line 2 should be changed [to] ‘an associative memory device’ to make the language consistent with the rest of the claim.” [Office Action, page 2] By the above amendments, Claim 82 has been amended accordingly.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 22-25, 28, 30-34, 38, 43, 44, 47, 51, 52, 59 and 78-82 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stefan et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,760,821 (herein referred to as Stefan ‘821). By the above amendments, these rejections are overcome.

Within the Office Action, Claims 26, 27, 29, 35-37, 39-42, 45, 46, 48-50, 53-58, and 60-77 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the above amendments, the limitations of Claims 24 and 29 have been incorporated in Claim 22. Therefore, Claim 22 is allowable. Claims 23, 25-28 and 30-80 all depend on Claim

22. Accordingly, Claims 23, 25-28 and 30-80 are all also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 81 is directed to a method of processing data. By the above amendments, the method also includes the limitations of Claims 24 and 29. For the same reasons as Claim 22, Claim 81 is allowable.

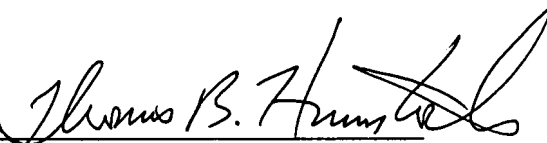
Claim 82 is directed to a data processing system. As described above, it has been stated that Claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the above amendments, the data processing system also includes the limitations of Claims 24 and 27. Thus, Claim 82 is allowable.

Claim 83 is directed to a data processing system. As described above, it has been stated that Claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the above amendments, the data processing system also includes the limitations of Claims 24 and 36. Thus, Claim 83 is allowable.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. The Examiner and/or the foreign associate are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700, or fax at (408) 530-9797, with any questions or comments so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 8-16-07

By: 

Thomas B. Haverstock

Reg. No.: 32,571

Attorneys for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Date: 8-16-07 By: 